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Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—" May I know whether there have been no such denials at all in the past? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" I can't say."

Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" May I know from the hon. the Chief Minister whether some of the local boards are awaiting his order on this subject? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" Not that I am aware of."

Medical

Principle of selection of Medical Officers for the Agency.

* 273 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the principle, if any, on which medical officers are selected for service in the Agency?

A.—There are no specific rules for the selection of medical officers for duty in the Agency tracts. The period of duty in those tracts is generally fixed at two years so as not to keep the officers too long in what is occasionally an unhealthy area. Of the officers available for service, usually the more junior and active are selected.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know who was the person transferred to the Agency tracts prior to the present incumbent serving there? May I know the reason why he was transferred there and what his age was at the time of transfer? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" The question does not refer to any specific incumbent."

Purpose and cost of the Conference of District Medical Officers and Civil Surgeons.

* 274 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Surgeon-General to the Government of Madras is holding a conference of all the District Medical Officers and Civil Surgeons in the Presidency;

(*b*) if so, what is the purpose for which the conference is being held; and

(*c*) what is the expenditure involved in the holding of the conference?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) For the discussion of certain important questions connected with the development of the Medical Department.

(*c*) About Rs. 3,880.

Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya :—" In answer to clause (*b*) it is stated that the conference is held ' for the discussion of certain important questions connected with the development of the Medical department'. May I know what are those important questions? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" The subjects that were discussed are, (1) the appointment of honorary medical officers, (2) equipment of libraries with books and periodicals, (3) consideration of pay and prospects of rural medical practitioners, (4) Government medical staff, (5) Local Fund medical staff, (6) clerks, compounders, menials, and so on. These are some of the subjects in respect of which the Surgeon-General wished to know the opinion of the various medical officers."

Mr. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Was there not a similar conference held last year and may I know whether they submitted any report? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I think so, Sir, we are awaiting the report."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether in the previous conferences the same subjects were not discussed? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" The previous conferences were held by some years ago. The Government felt that it would be better if they elicited the opinion of the medical officers on these subjects again."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether in those conferences they did not discuss the pay and prospects of the medical cadre? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I don't know. The Government do not want that to be discussed."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" It may not be wanted. But may I know whether that subject was not discussed in previous conferences? "

Alleged detention of Mr. K. E. Shivaraman in the Mental Hospital at Madras.

* 275 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions, written or otherwise, to Superintendents of Mental Hospitals to detain patients who are politically inclined as long as possible;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that one K. E. Shivaraman is detained in the Madras Mental Hospital;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that when some persons applied for his discharge, they were told that he should avoid political occupation and that if any persons would give undertaking to that effect he would be discharged;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that only because none would give the undertaking he is still detained in the hospital; and

(*e*) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.